



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

**South Carolina Board of Nursing**

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**ADVISORY OPINION # 34**

**FORMULATED:** July 28, 2000

**REVISED:**

**REVIEWED:** March 2011, July 2007, May 2006, July 2005, August 2002

**QUESTION:** Is it within the scope of practice of the licensed nurse to perform auricular acupuncture?

The Board of Nursing for South Carolina acknowledges that it is within the scope of practice of the licensed nurse to perform auricular acupuncture. South Carolina Code section 40-47-70 states that: "The practice of acupuncture shall be permitted in this State under the supervision and referral of a licensed medical doctor or dentist in facilities approved by the Department of Health and Environmental Control. No acupuncturist shall practice in this State without prior written approval of the State Board of Medical Examiners."

Persons wishing to obtain permission from the Board of Medical Examiners to practice acupuncture must contact the SC Board of Medical Examiners and follow their directions for Permission to Practice Acupuncture.

The Board of Nursing does limit the licensed nurse to the practice of auricular acupuncture only and requires the licensed nurse to follow all requirements of the SC Board of Medical Examiners.

Apply to:  
LLR, South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners  
110 Centerview Dr  
Post Office Box 11289  
Columbia, SC 29211-1289  
(803) 896-4500

*This statement is an advisory opinion of the Board of nursing as to what constitutes competent and safe nursing practice.*